

COMMUNICATIONS CONT'D

Letter to the Editors

It is interesting to look back on the history of the journal *Immunohematology*, which, if you count the predecessors, has existed for 28 years.

In 1974, the American Red Cross (ARC) Reference Laboratory Committee was formed. The members of this committee decided to produce a newsletter written by people (mostly technologists) who were interested in immunohematology. This newsletter was initially published as the "American Red Cross Reference Laboratory Newsletter" (Vol. 1, No. 1, October 15, 1976). A request for ideas for a more original name generated the following possibilities: "Immune Tribune," "Pipette Gazette," "Red Cell Free Press," "Red Cell Gazette," and "Transferase." Members of the Red Cross Reference Laboratories voted and the name "Red Cell Free Press" was selected.

From 1978 to 1983 (Volumes 3 to 8), the newsletter was published as "Red Cell Free Press, ARC Reference Laboratory Newsletter." In 1980 (Volume 5), the letterhead changed to include the Red Cross logo. Thus, from 1976 to 1983, the newsletter was published with the purpose of sharing SOPs, helpful hints, and articles written "by the people, for the people."

During these 8 years, standard features included a calendar of events, a list of reagents available from the ARC, a crossword puzzle, results of proficiency testing,

and a list of relevant recent references. The co-editors for the newsletters were Sandy Ellisor, Marion Reid (both from Central California Red Cross Blood Services), and Helen Glidden (from ARC National Headquarters).

In September 1984, Delores Mallory became the editor-in-chief for the first volume of *Immunohematology*. The title change was introduced "to reflect the move from a newsletter toward a more serious journalistic report." The editorial board was expanded to "encourage neophytes and offer assistance in writing." In 1988, the journal maintained its name but the front cover design was changed to that used today.

To me, the newsletters and the journal provided, and still provide, a vehicle for sharing information and encouraging and mentoring novice writers in areas that are of interest to immunohematologists. I look forward to the next 20 years!

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